


**THE
BALMAIN
RAG**

OCTOBER 1931

A WARNING.

At the last meeting of the N.S.W.R.A. one of the delegates had a serious report to make.

It seems that the Riverview authorities, who have been a long-suffering crowd, are getting a bit tired of the petty thefts occurring at their own shed.

The limit was reached the other day when after two clubs, Mosman and , had paid them a visit the reverend fathers found that their committee room at the shed had been broken into, the door smashed in and a cupboard forced open. As the cupboard referred to always contains the beer on Regatta days some in the know must have given the others the office.

The delegate in question asked all present to take a stern view of the occurrence and the association now intends to call for a report from the two clubs concerned.

Happily, the name of Balmain has never even been mentioned in these affairs but as I was impressed by the address I thought it would not be out of place to let members know of the happening.

We all get the greatest consideration from the "St. Ignatius". It was a surprise to me to know that the swimming baths are entirely closed to the Public except to members of the N.S.W.R.A. This is only one concession. Sunday after Sunday some of the clubs take use of most of the privileges offered and it is a long time since anything like the above has happened.

Of course Riverview could not close their eyes to all the little things that disappeared, but when it comes to breaking property it does seem over the odds.

The best thing we can do is to remember the old motto "If you can't be good, be at least careful"

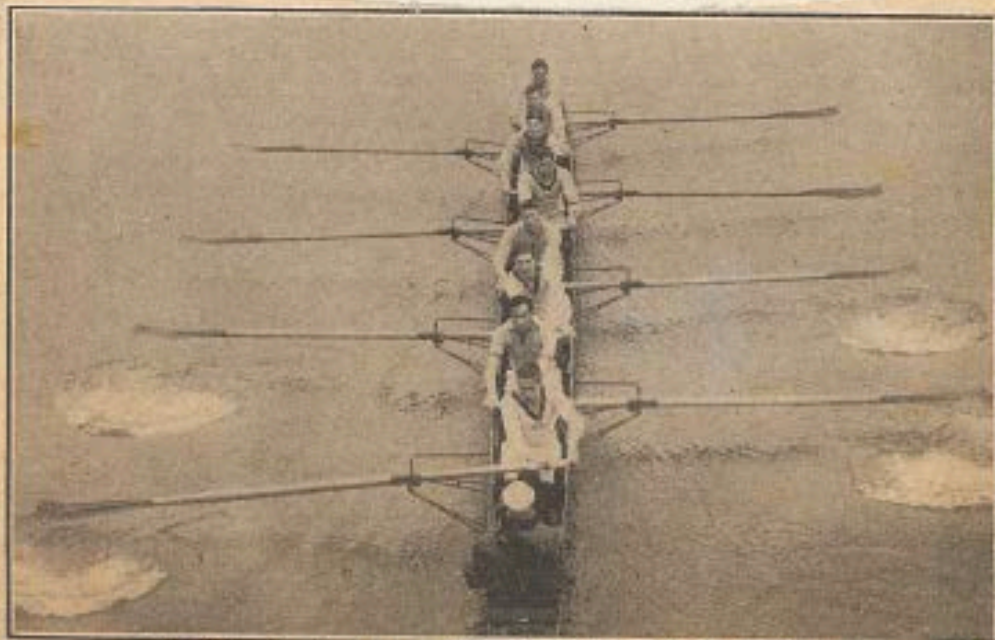


Members of the Bendigo Rowing Club, whose less strenuous hobby is sun-bathing. Every man is an ardent physiculturist—and looks it!

Up above you see some of the gentlemen we may be entertaining early next year. They intend making the trip over by cycle. It is also their attention to enter for the races while they are here.

The reporter seems astray in saying that "every man is an ardent physiculturist- and looks it" Have a glance at the man standing on the left near the door. If physical culture made him that thin, I'm going to give it up.

Down below you see my old club "Oxford. Don't you know" I was cox the day this photo was taken.



The 'Varsity Boat Race. The Oxford Crew in the Making.

[Caption]

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The usual monthly committee meeting was held at the residence of Mr. J.B. Sharp on Wednesday 2nd. inst..

Those present beside Mr. Sharp were W.R. Nix(Captain) R.Bow. A.T .Nix. J.S. Mc Queen and F.Turner.

Mr. Sid.Sharp's stomach decided to rebel that night and we all missed his cheery presence. I did'nt miss him much as wherever Sid.Sharp is you may be sure he has a bill for something.

Mr. F. Mc Cinn also is recovering from a long illness very slowly and we hope to see him this week-end.

We received all the communications about the new Old Carsman association. Mr. JS. Mc Queen reported having attended the meeting . More about that later.

The main item on the programme was to elect new committee members in place of the couple who had resigned.

Mr. Neil Boshell was the first elected and we intend filling the other places as soon as possible.

Mr. Ron. Bow was the next to be elected to something. His new office is that of vice-captain. The combination with Bill. Nix as captain should be another reason why we should straighten our backs as we go by Drummoyne shed.

Mr. Bow has definite ideas on the training system for crews. They do not depart from any of the accepted standards but his watchword is "be prepared and be early."

More time was taken up in the discussion on the regatta programme for the year. Once more the combined regatta (Glebe-Balmain and Drummoyne) has been given the L.W. Champion eights. It will be a great effort to retain the race for the regatta this year on account of last year's fiasco. Not that it was any fault of the clubs concerned. But the presence of the ships sticks in the bellies of the delegates from other clubs. So members may be assured of the Balmain delegates fighting to the last ditch for this race.

Supper and so to bed.

THE BALL

What another great night we had . The Ball of the year. To us it always is. We endeavour to give all our supporters the time of their lives. If we fail the blame can be hardly on our shoulders.

Well the weather favoured us and the attendance was not far short of last years. Taking into consideration the conditions at the present time----that's seems a timeworn phrase----we did remarkably well.

Everybody sang and danced, eat and drank. So if there is anything more to be done at a Ball I would like to hear about it.

The ladies assured me that the supper was the best they had ever had. Certainly all made a great row.

The event of the evening was the presentation to Mr. Sid. Porter of the illuminated address containing the signatures of those present at the Re-Union.

After much coaching or coaxing I persuaded Mr. Porter, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Booth to come on to the stage. It was a carefully planned surprise. Mr. Porter could not make out what was going to happen. When he saw me with something in my hand he started to get inquisitive. From then on I had a merry time trying to keep him from seeing the thing. I shifted it from side to side, turned it back to front, then front to back, until at last I had to tell him that it was our gift in celebration of the Jubilee.

Mr. Porter made a fine speech in which he assured the members of his unabated interest and enthusiasm in the Club and hoping to be with for the next Fifty years.

For that Mr. Porter was given a dozen and three cheers.

From then on things got lively and ended with a crocodile through the hall. by all present.

By the way, that hall looked very nice and congratulations are due to all concerned.

To Mrs. Sharp and the ladies once more we give our thanks .

LADIES DAY

In common with the rest of the races held this year for the Sharp Cup perfect weather reigned for our Annual Ladies Day.

Members rolled up in great force and in most cases accompanied by their lady friends. Mr. Sharp once more did the honors and welcomed everyone and throughout the afternoon busied himself seeing that all had a great time.

The racing itself proved very exciting and the only drawback was a freshening breeze near Perdriau's. This proved very disconcerting to the Maiden Eight who had an outside position and although they could not win the race seemed well rowed.

One more the winning lightweight crew stroked by E. Mc Lean. added another laurel to its wreath.

Jim Cashman rowed an excellent stick to come third in the same race.

The next four could not just get there either. So although our racing this year has met with small success still there is next season and we won't be far behind then.

To return to the ladies. I think they all had enough to eat. Women are remarkable. Not so long ago then were all frightened to eat for fear of getting fat. Now they tuck in with the rest of us. So much for fashion.

Although they were told that they were guests of the day some of the younger set would not be satisfied until they were handing round cakes and tea. There's no doubt our girls, they certainly like us.

So that was another day over. No more until next year. I wonder if the same faces will be there.

I nearly forgot the event of the day. The christening of the "Jubilee". Mrs. Sharp, with the help of Mr. Sid Porter, said a few nice words and "crack" the Jubilee was christened. A bunch of flowers tied with the club ribbons was our gift to Mrs. Sharp.

GRAND JUBILEE RE-UNION

What a night . Who'll ever forget it. As one of the many barman I can attest to the staying powers of some of these old-timers.

If I possess the beer capacity of some of these near-ancient rowers at their age I will feel that life's race has not been run in vain.

The best of the joke, it was not the oldest of the old members who sank the most it remained for the just-married brethren to have a frothelowers competition.

Guys about the same age as Sid Sharp and Jack Mc Queen. (I quoted this pair as I know they are T.T.'s.). One admitted to absorbing one - whole - gallon. However there is an excuse for them. Good times are few and far between when you have'nt been married too long.

Still who cared . Nobody got obnoxious . Nobody made too much of a row . Everybody was satisfied . Everything was orderly. There you are . All the elements for a good night and quite the greatest function ever held in the history of our Club.

Seriously . one could listen to the speeches of our own Mr. Sharp and Mr. Sid. Porter also Mr. John Booth. and enjoy them. You could admire the straight-forwardedness of Bill Beach his earnestness and honesty and supreme pleasure in being present. And so through all the old fellows . Perhaps the Rowing Club had moulded them like this. One never knows.

Was'nt it funny that old Duncan Smith would persist in referring to the "Bowling Club" instead of the "Rowing Club"? And what about the drowsy cove that wandered in while our own Sid. Porter was being remeniscent? "Can't hear yuh", he drawled, rather rudely. A rush of barman with beer instantly drowned any further remarks from this latecomer.

To Mr. J. Mc Queen the success of the evening was the the greatest tribute to his organisation, which never flagged throughout. to the barman and to the artists, including the singer Reg Porter and Cecil Shaw, who played anything put in front of him and did it well, columns of praise could not thank enough.

THE PAST MONTH

Well , have'nt we had a month of it. First the Re-union, second the Ladies Day then the Great Ball.

You will read about all this later on but now is the time to look back on them .If you are a true supporter of the Balmain Rowing Club you will never forget them. Of course the Re-Union was the greatest event of all. Did you see how someone's face would light up as an old cobbler of years ago strolled through the door? I was watching them. Some of them had'nt met for years. In fact lots had'nt set eyes on one another since they left the shed.

Now, that's the spirit. To be able to look at another bloke after the passing of years and to say wholeheartedly" Well, I am glad to see you."

Let us look at the other side of the picture. Say somebody walked through that door who had done a dirty bit of underhand work during those club days. Although at the time noone realised the damage he would cause and he went on to nearly wreck the club. Would you be glad to see him? Say you met him at the Centenary celebrations, what would be your first memory? Would'nt be very pleasant, would it?

So there you are, you have fifty years of good-fellowship and pleasant times behind you. Everyone one of us can have all those years and more . Let nearly all of us meet again in 1981 and have another good night.

REMEMBER above all it is not the races you win it's the sportsman you should be. Have a good time and win if you can but for me its the sport, and not the medals.

One of everybody's ambitions should be to win their races, -----
it is one of mine, but we will never see that Junior Pennant while we have men reviling the very spirit of sport within our ranks.